PRESIDENT: I think I dealt with the matter yesterday. We should not disclose the matter any further. There are many competitors. We are not the only people who have salt to sell. We have got the support of the Government of India and I should thankfully acknowledge that help. But that is not all. There are many intermediary stages, some of which confidential and others not confidential. Under these circumstances, it is well that we do not go into the details.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Answer to Part (*b*) is that about 1616 labourers would be affected; and answer to Part (*c*) is that the information is not available. I wish to know whether it is because the Department is unmindful of the labourers in the Salt factories.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: No, Sir. If there is too much of surplus Salt it will have to be put back to the brine. It is to save that contingency that this order has been passed.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): May I know whether it is possible to sell the whole salt?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: If foreign market is obtained it will be possible to do so.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know the purpose of this order?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: It is to prevent excess salt being accumulated year after year.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know whether there were not petitions from all licensees that this order should be cancelled and if so, the action taken thereon?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: A petition was received last week from some licensees, and that is being considered.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: In view of the large excess of the salt production, is it not possible for the Government to reduce the cost of salt?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The cost of salt does not depend upon production alone. There are other circumstances and matters to be looked into.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the reasons which stand in the way of Government for reducing the price of salt?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: We are under obligation with the British Government so far as the duty of salt is concerned.

Transport Department Printing.

101. * **MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the name of the person or persons who are entrusted with the printing works required for the Transport Department;

(*b*) the terms of the existing contract;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. Jebamony Nadar.]

(*c*) whether tenders were called for before settling the present contract;

(*d*) whether other persons have agreed to take up this work for lower rates; and

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) is in the affirmative, the reasons for continuing the present contract?

MR. E. G. SALTER: (*a*) The printing works are being got done by the Sri Rama Vilasom Press.

(*b*) There is no contract.

(*c*) to (*e*) These questions do not arise in view of the above answer.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know the amount paid per year by the Department for printing works?

MR. E. G. SALTER: The amount paid must necessarily vary with the services operated. It cannot be a fixed quantity in respect of any one year.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Was any amount paid this year to this company?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Certainly.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know why no tender was called for?

MR. E. G. SALTER: During the year 1113 printing firms were invited to quote for printing the tickets and various other items required by the Department and the successful tenderer was the S. R. V. Press. Since then no other tenders have been called for because it was felt that it would be undesirable and unwise to entrust very important matters like the printing of tickets etc., which are needed so often, to any firm which is liable to obtain the contract as a result of under-cutting the rates.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know why the work was not entrusted to the Government Press?

MR. E. G. SALTER: The Government Press were also asked to quote and their rate was higher than the S. R. V. Press. The other more important reason was that the Transport Department operates all the 365 days a year and when there are red marks in the calendar it does not mean a holiday for the Transport Department but a little more work. The Department cannot tolerate any delay for the reason that it is a holiday, or anythiug of that sort. For that reason, it was considered inadvisable to entrust the work to the Government Press.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know why the work could not be given to any other private press?

MR. E. G. SALTER: It is proved in actual experience that the S. R. V. Press is one most suitable in Trivandrum, I may say, in the whole of Travancore, for satisfying the Transport Department's requirements.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Has the Director enquired whether there is any other press in the State which could undertake the work?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. E. G. SALTER: I have already explained that the S. R. V. Press was the successful tenderer for the year 1113 and we continued to give our orders as a result of their satisfactory service.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Does the member think that there is no other firm which can do this work satisfactorily?

MR. E. G. SALTER: It is not a question whether there are or are not firms to handle this work satisfactorily. The Department cannot take risks.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know why no chance was given to other presses?

MR. E. G. SALTER: As I have said on two occasions a chance was given in 1113.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether it is the tender rate of 1113 that continues even now?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Except for the price of paper, it is the same rate.

Cement manufacture in Travancore.

102. *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the stage at which the introduction of cement manufacture in Travancore now stands?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: Investigations regarding the resources of raw materials have been nearly completed and negotiations are going on in regard to the further arrangements contemplated.

Import of certain commodities.

103. *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the quantity of rice, paddy and cloth imported into Travancore during each of the last ten years?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: A statement is laid on the table.

Registration Office at Alloor.

104. MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Government received a petition on 6-11-1116 about the corrupt practices of a head-clerk in the Registration Office at Alloor; and

(*b*) the action taken thereon?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP: (*a*) No.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*) supra

Register Cutcherry at Alloor.

105. *MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

Vide Appendix V page 269.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly